

The Craft Yarn Council of America is the yarn industry's trade association. For more than 25 years, it has heightened consumer awareness of yarn crafts through education and promotion programs. Its membership represents the leading yarn companies, fiber producers, needle and hook manufacturers and publishers.



P.O. Box 9  
Gastonia, NC 28053-0009  
704-824-7838  
Fax: 704-824-0630

E-mail: [info@craftyarncouncil.com](mailto:info@craftyarncouncil.com)

Web sites: [www.knitandcrochet.com](http://www.knitandcrochet.com),  
[www.learntoknit.com](http://www.learntoknit.com); [www.learntocrochet.com](http://www.learntocrochet.com);  
[www.teachknitting.com](http://www.teachknitting.com);  
[www.Knit911.com](http://www.Knit911.com)  
[www.Crochet911.com](http://www.Crochet911.com); [www.craftyarncouncil.com](http://www.craftyarncouncil.com)

This **Standards & Guidelines** booklet and downloadable symbol artwork  
are available at:

**YarnStandards.com**



# STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

for  
Crochet  
and  
Knitting

Compiled by  
Craft Yarn Council of America

[YarnStandards.com](http://YarnStandards.com)

# Standards & Guidelines

The publishers, fiber, needle and hook manufacturers and yarn members of the Craft Yarn Council of America have worked together to set up a series of guidelines and symbols to bring uniformity to yarn, needle and hook labeling and to patterns, whether they appear in books, magazines, leaflets or on yarn labels. Our goal is to make it easier for industry manufacturers, publishers and designers to prepare consumer-friendly products and for consumers to select the right materials for a project and complete it successfully.

We urge manufacturers, publishers and designers, to adopt these guidelines. Downloads of the graphic symbols are available at [www.YarnStandards.com](http://www.YarnStandards.com) at no charge. We ask that if you use them in any publication that you advise us in an e-mail of your intention to use them and that the following credit line be given:

Source: Craft Yarn  
Council of America's  
[www.YarnStandards.com](http://www.YarnStandards.com)

We received valuable input from allied associations in the United States, such as The National NeedleArts Association, the Crochet Guild of America, and The Knitting Guild Association, as

well as designers and consumers. Ultimately, our objective is to design global standards and guidelines that will be used by companies worldwide. To this end, we have reached out to individuals, manufacturers and trade associations in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, as well as in Australia and New Zealand to ask for their input.

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# Crochet Abbreviations Master List

Following is a list of crochet abbreviations used in patterns by yarn industry designers and publishers. The most commonly used abbreviations are highlighted. In addition, designers and publishers may use special abbreviations in a pattern, which you might not find on this list. Generally, a definition of special abbreviations is given at the beginning of a book or pattern.

## Abbreviation Description

[ ]	work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
( )	work instructions within parentheses as many times as directed
*	repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed
**	repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions
"	inch(es)
alt	alternate
approx	approximately
beg	begin/beginning
bet	between
BL	back loop(s)
bo	bobble
BP	back post
BPdc	back post double crochet
BPsc	back post single crochet
BPtr	back post treble crochet
CA	color A
CB	color B
CC	contrasting color
ch	chain stitch
ch-	refers to chain or space previously made: e.g., ch-1 space
ch-sp	chain space
CL	cluster
cm	centimeter(s)
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	double crochet 2 stitches together
dec	decrease/decreases/decreasing
dtr	double treble
FL	front loop(s)
fol	follow/follows/following
FP	front post

## Abbreviation Description

FPdc	front post double crochet
FPsc	front post single crochet
FPtr	front post treble crochet
g	gram
hdc	half double crochet
inc	increase/increases/increasing
lp(s)	loops
m	meter(s)
MC	main color
mm	millimeter(s)
oz	ounce(s)
p	picot
pat(s)	pattern(s)
or patt	pattern(s)
pc	popcorn
pm	place marker
prev	previous
rem	remain/remaining
rep	repeat(s)
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sc	single crochet
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
sk	skip
Sl st	slip stitch
sp(s)	space(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
tch	turning chain
or t-ch	turning chain
tbl	through back loop
tog	together
tr	treble crochet
trtr	triple treble crochet
WS	wrong side
yd(s)	yard(s)
yo	yarn over
yoh	yarn over hook

# Knitting Abbreviations Master List

Following is a list of knitting abbreviations used by yarn industry designers and publishers. The most commonly used abbreviations are highlighted. In addition, designers and publishers may use special abbreviations in a pattern, which you might not find on this list. Generally, a definition of special abbreviations is given at the beginning of a book or pattern.

## Abbreviation Description





[ ] . . . . . work instructions within brackets as many times as directed  
 ( ) . . . . . work instructions within parentheses in the place directed  
 \* \* . . . . . repeat instructions following the asterisks as directed  
 \* . . . . . repeat instructions following the single asterisk as directed  
 " . . . . . inch(es)  
 alt . . . . . alternate  
 approx . . . . . approximately  
 beg . . . . . begin/beginning  
 bet . . . . . between  
 BO . . . . . bind off  
 CA . . . . . color A  
 CB . . . . . color B  
 CC . . . . . contrasting color  
 cm . . . . . centimeter(s)  
 cn . . . . . cable needle  
 CO . . . . . cast on  
 cont . . . . . continue  
 dec . . . . . decrease/decreases/decreasing  
 dpn . . . . . double pointed needle(s)  
 fl . . . . . front loop(s)  
 foll . . . . . follow/follows/following  
 g . . . . . gram  
 inc . . . . . increase/increases/increasing  
 k or K . . . . . knit  
 k2tog . . . . . knit 2 stitches together  
 kwise . . . . . knitwise  
 LH . . . . . left hand  
 lp(s) . . . . . loop(s)  
 m . . . . . meter(s)  
 M1 . . . . . make one—an increase—several increases can be described as "M1"  
 M1 p-st . . . . . make one purl stitch  
 MC . . . . . main color  
 mm . . . . . millimeter(s)  
 oz . . . . . ounce(s)  
 p or P . . . . . purl

## Abbreviation Description





pat(s) or patt . . . . . pattern(s)  
 pm . . . . . place marker  
 pop . . . . . popcorn  
 p2tog . . . . . purl 2 stitches together  
 prev . . . . . previous  
 psso . . . . . pass slipped stitch over  
 pwise . . . . . purlwise  
 rem . . . . . remain/remaining  
 rep . . . . . repeat(s)  
 rev St st . . . . . reverse stockinette stitch  
 RH . . . . . right hand  
 rnd(s) . . . . . round(s)  
 RS . . . . . right side  
 sk . . . . . skip  
 skp . . . . . slip, knit, pass stitch over—one stitch decreased  
 sk2p . . . . . slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slip stitch over the knit 2 together; 2 stitches have been decreased  
 sl . . . . . slip  
 sl1k . . . . . slip 1 knitwise  
 sl1p . . . . . slip 1 purlwise  
 sl st . . . . . slip stitch(es)  
 ss . . . . . slip stitch (Canadian)  
 ssk . . . . . slip, slip, knit these 2 stitches together—a decrease  
 sssk . . . . . slip, slip, slip, knit 3 stitches together  
 st(s) . . . . . stitch(es)  
 St st . . . . . stockinette stitch/stocking stitch  
 tbl . . . . . through back loop  
 tog . . . . . together  
 WS . . . . . wrong side  
 wyib . . . . . with yarn in back  
 wyif . . . . . with yarn in front  
 yd(s) . . . . . yard(s)  
 yfwd . . . . . yarn forward  
 yo . . . . . yarn over  
 yrn . . . . . yarn around needle  
 yon . . . . . yarn over needle

# Skill Levels

## SKILL LEVELS FOR KNITTING

1		<b>Beginner</b>	Projects for first-time knitters using basic knit and purl stitches. Minimal shaping.
2		<b>Easy</b>	Projects using basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing.
3		<b>Intermediate</b>	Projects with a variety of stitches, such as basic cables and lace, simple intarsia, double-pointed needles and knitting in the round needle techniques, mid-level shaping and finishing.
4		<b>Experienced</b>	Projects using advanced techniques and stitches, such as short rows, fair isle, more intricate intarsia, cables, lace patterns, and numerous color changes.

## SKILL LEVELS FOR CROCHET

1		<b>Beginner</b>	Projects for first-time crocheters using basic stitches. Minimal shaping.
2		<b>Easy</b>	Projects using yarn with basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing.
3		<b>Intermediate</b>	Projects using a variety of techniques, such as basic lace patterns or color patterns, mid-level shaping and finishing.
4		<b>Experienced</b>	Projects with intricate stitch patterns, techniques and dimension, such as non-repeating patterns, multi-color techniques, fine threads, small hooks, detailed shaping and refined finishing.

This Standards & Guidelines booklet and downloadable symbol artwork are available at: [YarnStandards.com](http://YarnStandards.com)

# Standard Body Measurements/Sizing

Most crochet and knitting pattern instructions will provide general sizing information, such as the chest or bust measurements of a completed garment. Many patterns also include detailed schematics or line drawings. These drawings show specific garment measurements (bust/chest, neckline, back, waist, sleeve length, etc.) in all the different pattern sizes. To insure proper fit, always review all of the sizing information provided in a pattern before you begin.

Following are several sizing charts. These charts show Chest, Center Back Neck-to-Cuff, Back Waist Length, Cross Back, and Sleeve Length **actual body measurements** for babies, children, women, and men. These measurements are given in both inches and centimeters.

When sizing sweaters, the fit is based on actual chest/bust measurements, plus ease (additional inches or centimeters). The first chart entitled "Fit" recommends the amount of ease to add to body measurements if you prefer a close-fitting garment, an oversized garment, or something in-between.

The next charts provide average lengths for children's, women's and men's garments.

Both the Fit and Length charts are simply guidelines. For individual body differences, changes can be made in body and sleeve lengths when appropriate.

However, consideration must be given to the project pattern. Certain sizing changes may alter the appearance of a garment.

## HOW TO MEASURE

### 1. Chest/Bust

Measure around the fullest part of the chest/bust. Do not draw the tape too tightly.

### 2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff

With arm slightly bent, measure from back base of neck across shoulder around bend of elbow to wrist.

### 3. Back Waist Length

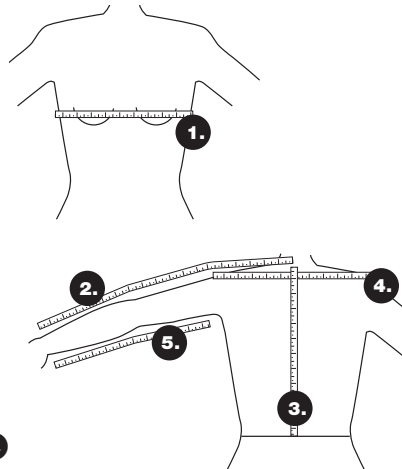
Measure from the most prominent bone at base of neck to the natural waistline.

### 4. Cross Back

Measure from shoulder to shoulder.

### 5. Sleeve Length

With arm slightly bent, measure from armpit to cuff.



## FIT

**Very-close fitting:** Actual chest/bust measurement or less

**Close-fitting:** 1–2"/2.5–5cm

**Standard-fitting:** 2–4"/5–10cm

**Loose-fitting:** 4–6"/10–15cm

**Oversized:** 6"/15cm or more

## LENGTH FOR WOMEN

**Waist length:** Actual body measurement

**Hip length:** 6"/15cm down from waist

**Tunic length:** 11"/28cm down from waist

## LENGTH FOR MEN

Men's length usually varies only 1–2"/2.5–5cm from the actual "back hip length" measurement (see chart)

## LENGTH FOR CHILDREN

**Waist length:** Actual body measurement

**Hip length:** 2"/5cm down from waist

**Tunic length:** 6"/15cm down from waist

Baby's size	3 months	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
1. Chest (in.) (cm.)	16 40.5	17 43	18 45.5	19 48	20 50.5
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	10½ 26.5	11½ 29	12½ 31.5	14 35.5	18 45.5
3. Back Waist Length	6 15.5	7 17.5	7½ 19	8 20.5	8½ 21.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to shoulder)	7¼ 18.5	7¾ 19.5	8¼ 21	8½ 21.5	8¾ 22
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	6 15.5	6½ 16.5	7½ 19	8 20.5	8½ 21.5

Child's size	2	4	6	8	10
1. Chest (in.) (cm.)	21 53	23 58.5	25 63.5	26½ 67	28 71
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	18 45.5	19½ 49.5	20½ 52	22 56	24 61
3. Back Waist Length	8½ 21.5	9½ 24	10½ 26.5	12½ 31.5	14 35.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to shoulder)	9¼ 23.5	9¾ 25	10¼ 26	10¾ 27	11¼ 28.5
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	8½ 21.5	10½ 26.5	11½ 29	12½ 31.5	13½ 34.5

continued on page 11

# STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR CROCHET AND KNITTING

<b>Child's (cont.)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1.</b> Chest (in.) (cm.)	30 76	31½ 80	32½ 82.5
<b>2.</b> Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	26 66	27 68.5	28 71
<b>3.</b> Back Waist Length	15 38	15½ 39.5	16 40.5
<b>4.</b> Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	12 30.5	12¼ 31	13 33
<b>5.</b> Sleeve Length to Underarm	15 38	16 40.5	16½ 42

<b>Woman's size</b>	<b>X-Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Large</b>
<b>1.</b> Bust (in.) (cm.)	28–30 71–76	32–34 81–86	36–38 91.5–96.5	40–42 101.5–106.5
<b>2.</b> Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	27–27½ 68.5–70	28–28½ 71–72.5	29–29½ 73.5–75	30–30½ 76–77.5
<b>3.</b> Back Waist Length	16½ 42	17 43	17¼ 43.5	17½ 44.5
<b>4.</b> Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	14–14½ 35.5–37	14½–15 37–38	16–16½ 40.5–42	17–17½ 43–44.5
<b>5.</b> Sleeve Length to Underarm	16½ 42	17 43	17 43	17½ 44.5

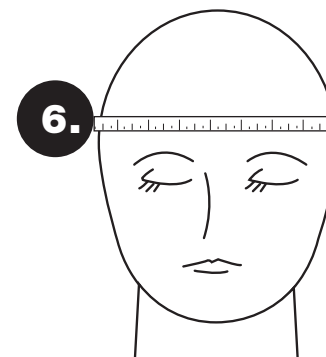
<b>Woman's (cont.)</b>	<b>1X</b>	<b>2X</b>	<b>3X</b>	<b>4X</b>	<b>5X</b>
<b>1.</b> Bust (in.) (cm.)	44–46 111.5–117	48–50 122–127	52–54 132–137	56–58 142–147	60–62 152–158
<b>2.</b> Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	31–31½ 78.5–80	31½–32 80–81.5	32½–33 82.5–84	32½–33 82.5–84	33–33½ 84–85
<b>3.</b> Back Waist Length	17¼ 45	18 45.5	18 45.5	18½ 47	18½ 47
<b>4.</b> Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	17½ 44.5	18 45.5	18 45.5	18½ 47	18½ 47
<b>5.</b> Sleeve Length to Underarm	17½ 44.5	18 45.5	18 45.5	18½ 47	18½ 47

# STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR CROCHET AND KNITTING

<b>Man's Size</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>X-Large</b>	<b>XX-Large</b>
<b>1.</b> Chest (in.) (cm.)	34–36 86–91.5	38–40 96.5–101.5	42–44 106.5–111.5	46–48 116.5–122	50–52 127–132
<b>2.</b> Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	32–32½ 81–82.5	33–33½ 83.5–85	34–34½ 86.5–87.5	35–35½ 89–90	36–36½ 91.5–92.5
<b>3.</b> Back Hip Length	25–25½ 63.5–64.5	26½–26¾ 67.5–68	27–27¼ 68.5–69	27½–27¾ 69.5–70.5	28–28½ 71–72.5
<b>4.</b> Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	15½–16 39.5–40.5	16½–17 42–43	17½–18 44.5–45.5	18–18½ 45.5–47	18½–19 47–48
<b>5.</b> Sleeve Length to Underarm	18 45.5	18½ 47	19½ 49.5	20 50.5	20½ 52

## Head Circumference Chart

	<b>Infant/Child</b>				<b>Adult</b>	
	<b>Premie</b>	<b>Baby</b>	<b>Toddler</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Woman</b>	<b>Man</b>
<b>6.</b> Circumference (in.)	12	14	16	18	20	22
(cm.)	30.5	35.5	40.5	45.5	50.5	56










For an accurate head measure, place a tape measure across the forehead and measure around the full circumference of the head. Keep the tape snug for accurate results.



# Standard Yarn Weight System

## Categories of yarn, gauge ranges, and recommended needle and hook sizes

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names	 <b>0</b> <b>Lace</b>	 <b>1</b> <b>Super Fine</b>	 <b>2</b> <b>Fine</b>	 <b>3</b> <b>Light</b>	 <b>4</b> <b>Medium</b>	 <b>5</b> <b>Bulky</b>	 <b>6</b> <b>Super Bulky</b>
Type of Yarns in Category	Fingering 10 count crochet thread	Sock, Fingering, Baby	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Craft, Rug	Bulky, Roving
Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches	33–40** sts	27–32 sts	23–26 sts	21–24 sts	16–20 sts	12–15 sts	6–11 sts
Recommended Needle in Metric Size Range	1.5–2.25 mm	2.25–3.25 mm	3.25–3.75 mm	3.75–4.5 mm	4.5–5.5 mm	5.5–8 mm	8 mm and larger
Recommended Needle U.S. Size Range	000 to 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 7	7 to 9	9 to 11	11 and larger
Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inch	32–42 double crochets**	21–32 sts	16–20 sts	12–17 sts	11–14 sts	8–11 sts	5–9 sts
Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range	Steel*** 1.6–1.4mm Regular hook 2.25 mm	2.25–3.5 mm	3.5–4.5 mm	4.5–5.5 mm	5.5–6.5 mm	6.5–9 mm	9 mm and larger
Recommended Hook U.S. Size Range	Steel*** 6, 7, 8 Regular hook B–1	B–1 to E–4	E–4 to 7	7 to I–9	I–9 to K–10½	K–10½ to M–13	M–13 and larger

\* GUIDELINES ONLY: The above reflect the most commonly used gauges and needle or hook sizes for specific yarn categories.

\*\* Lace weight yarns are usually knitted or crocheted on larger needles and hooks to create lacy, openwork patterns. Accordingly, a gauge range is difficult to determine. Always follow the gauge stated in your pattern.

\*\*\* Steel crochet hooks are sized differently from regular hooks—the higher the number, the smaller the hook, which is the reverse of regular hook sizing.

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## Spanish

# Sistema de Peso Estandar para Estambre








## Numeros y Nombres

Nuevos Nombres de la Categoría	 <b>0</b> <b>Liston</b>	 <b>1</b> <b>Super Fino</b>	 <b>2</b> <b>Fino</b>	 <b>3</b> <b>Ligero</b>	 <b>4</b> <b>Medio</b>	 <b>5</b> <b>Abultado</b>	 <b>6</b> <b>Super Abultado</b>
Tipos de Estambres Actuales dentro de la Categoría	Estambre delgado Crochet calibre 10	Calcetín, Digitación, Bebe	Deporte, Bebe estambre ligero	Doble tejido de punto, Tejido de Afghan, Aran	Estambre (lana peinada), Afghano, Alfombra	Fornido, Grueso, Manualidad,	Abultado, Voluminoso, Mecha
Rango del Calibre del Punto en Tela de Punto de 4 Pulgadas	33 a 40 sts	27 a 32 sts	23 a 26 sts	21 a 24 sts	16 a 20 sts	12 a 15 sts	6 a 11 sts
Aguja Recomendada en el Rango de Tamaño Metrico	1.5 a 2.25 mm	2.25 a 3.25 mm	3.25 a 3.75 mm	3.75 a 4.5 mm	4.5 a 5.5 mm	5.5 a 8 mm	8 mm y mas
Aguja Recomendada en el Rango de Tamaño para E.U.	000 a 1	1 a 3	3 a 5	5 a 7	7 a 9	9 a 11	11 y mas
Calibre de Crochet en Crochet Sencillo de 4 Pulgadas	32 a 42 punto alto	21 a 32 sts	16 a 20 sts	12 a 17 sts	11 a 14 sts	8 a 11 sts	5 a 9 sts
Gancho Recomendado en el Tamaño Metrico	Acero 1.6 a 1.4 mm Gancho normal 2.25 mm	2.25 a 3.5 mm	3.5 a 4.5 mm	4.5 a 5.5 mm	5.5 a 6.5 mm	6.5 a 9 mm	9 mm y mas
Gancho Recomendado en el Tamaño para E.U.	Acero 6, 7, 8 Gancho normal B-1	B-1 a E-4	E-4 a 7	7 a I-9	I-9 a K-10½	K-10½ a M-13	M-13 y mas

## French

## Système Standard de Grosseur

## Pour Fils À Tricoter • Numéros et Noms

Nouvelle Catégorie Noms	 <b>0</b>	 <b>1</b>	 <b>2</b>	 <b>3</b>	 <b>4</b>	 <b>5</b>	 <b>6</b>
	<b>Dentelle</b>	<b>Super Fin</b>	<b>Fin</b>	<b>Léger</b>	<b>Moyen</b>	<b>Bulky</b>	<b>Super Bulky</b>
Fil à tricoter Actuel Genre en Catégorie	Fingering fil à crocheter #10	Bas, Fingering, Bébé	Sport, Bébé	DK, Léger Worsted	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Artisanat, Tapis	Bulky, Roving
Gamme de Tension au tricot en Point Jersey Sur 4 pouces	33 à 40 sts	27 à 32 sts	23 à 26 sts	21 à 24 sts	16 à 20 sts	12 à 15 sts	6 à 11 sts
Aiguilles Recommandées en métrique	1.5 à 2.25 mm	2.25 à 3.25 mm	3.25 à 3.75 mm	3.75 à 4.5 mm	4.5 à 5.5 mm	5.5 à 8 mm	8 mm et plus
Aiguilles Recommandées Américaines	000 à 1	1 à 3	3 à 5	5 à 7	7 à 9	9 à 11 et plus	11
Tension au Crochet en mailles serrées Sur 4 pouces	32 à 42 bride	21 à 32 m	16 à 20 m	12 à 17 m	11 à 14 m	8 à 11 m	5 à 9 m
Crochets Recommandés en métrique	Acier 1.6 à 1.4 mm Crochet ré gulier 2.25 mm	2.25 à 3.5 mm	3.5 à 4.5 mm	4.5 à 5.5 mm	5.5 à 6.5 mm	6.5 à 9 mm	9 mm et plus
Crochets Recommandés Américains	Acier 6, 7, 8 Crochet ré gulier B-1	B-1 à E-4	E-4 à 7	7 à I-9	I-9 à K-10I/2	K-10I/2 à M-13	M-13 et plus

## Hooks &amp; Needles

The Council's hook and needle manufacturers have agreed to make metric (millimeter/mm) sizing more prominent on packaging. The U.S. sizes, both numbers and/or letters, will also appear on packaging.

More prominent labeling of metric sizing, which is an actual measurement, should help eliminate consumer questions about the differences among the letter and number sizing of some needles and hooks. As noted in the introduction, with the cooperation of manufacturers, publishers and designers these changes will be implemented as packaging is reprinted and new patterns are published.

## Knitting Needle Sizes

## Millimeter Range      U.S. Size Range

2.25 mm. ....	1
2.75 mm. ....	2
3.25 mm. ....	3
3.5 mm. ....	4
3.75 mm. ....	5
4 mm. ....	6
4.5 mm. ....	7
5 mm. ....	8
5.5 mm. ....	9
6 mm. ....	10
6.5 mm. ....	10½
8 mm. ....	11
9 mm. ....	13
10 mm. ....	15
12.75 mm. ....	17
15 mm. ....	19
19 mm. ....	35
25 mm. ....	50

## Crochet Hook Sizes

## Millimeter Range      U.S. Size Range\*

2.25 mm. ....	B-1
2.75 mm. ....	C-2
3.25 mm. ....	D-3
3.5 mm. ....	E-4
3.75 mm. ....	F-5
4 mm. ....	G-6
4.5 mm. ....	7
5 mm. ....	H-8
5.5 mm. ....	I-9
6 mm. ....	J-10
6.5 mm. ....	K-10½
8 mm. ....	L-11
9 mm. ....	M/N-13
10 mm. ....	N/P-15
15 mm. ....	P/Q
16 mm. ....	Q
19 mm. ....	S

\*Letter or number may vary. Rely on the millimeter (mm) sizing.

NOTE ABOUT STEEL HOOKS: Steel crochet hooks are generally used with lace weight yarns and crochet threads. They are sized differently than regular hooks: the higher the number, the smaller the hook, which is the reverse of regular hook sizing. The smallest steel hook is a #14 or .9 mm; the largest is a 00 or 2.7 mm.

## Yarn label information



### Symbols

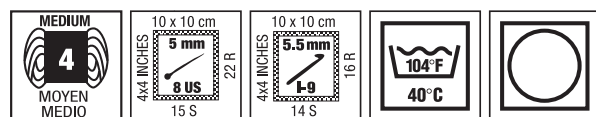
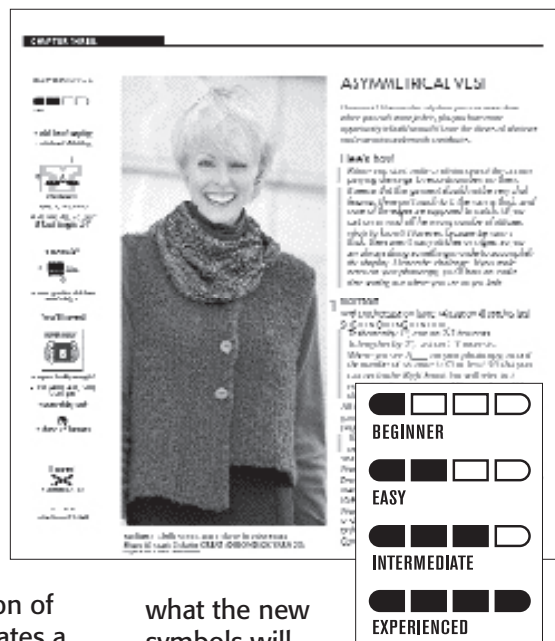
Symbols are used to designate the various weights (thicknesses) of yarn on labels and the skill level (beginner to experienced) of a pattern.

For yarn weights a ball/skein will be used containing a number between 0–6, with 0 the finest and 6 the thickest.

The skill level symbol is a horizontal bar divided into four sections. When one section of the bar is shaded, it indicates a beginner pattern; four shaded sections indicate a pattern for experienced knitters or crocheters.

Below is how you can expect to see the yarn symbols used on a label; and how the yarn and skill level symbols might appear in a pattern. See charts on pages 3 and 8 for more information about

what the new symbols will represent. (To download symbol artwork, go to: [www.YarnStandards.com](http://www.YarnStandards.com)) As noted in the introduction, these changes will be implemented over time with the printing of new labeling and the publishing of new books, patterns and magazines.



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## Designer Standards & Guidelines

As the demand for more and more crochet and knitting patterns has grown over the past decade, so has the demand from consumers for easier to read, accurate patterns. Concerned about the growing number of pattern complaints by consumers, the Craft Yarn Council of America members convened a special meeting to identify challenges at every level of pattern production—from the designer, where the pattern process begins, through to the final editing/printing process. The committee spoke extensively with editors and designers and all agreed our ultimate goal is to keep today's knitters and crocheters enjoying these crafts for years to come.

With this objective in mind and based on industry input, the Council has compiled the following helpful designer guidelines. They include everything from tips on submitting a project idea, to common pitfalls to avoid, and finally, to guidelines that should always be followed when sending your final project.

These guidelines do not replace those of individual companies. However, many will follow them, and they represent the base standards, which have been adopted by all members of the

Council and industry publishers. Accordingly, if designers want their submissions to be accepted, it is important for them to incorporate these standards into their project patterns.

### YOU WANT TO SUBMIT A PROJECT IDEA... WHERE DO YOU START?

You want to submit a project idea to a yarn company or magazine but don't know where to begin. Here are a few basic guidelines.

Contact the company or magazine and ask how they prefer to have project ideas submitted. If you are not sure how to contact them, check the magazine's masthead for an address or a yarn label to see where a company is headquartered.

Each company/magazine will have its own company-specific requirements or refer you to this web site.

Generally, companies/magazines will ask you to submit a sketch and knitted/crocheted swatch, rather than a completed project, however, many will consider a completed project.

Submit your design concept to ONE company or magazine at



a time. If a company/magazine accepts a design, they will expect it to be exclusive to them.

When you submit a swatch/sketch or sample, remember to label it with your name and contact information, including your address, phone number and area code, and e-mail address. Include a postage-paid envelope with your submission if you want it returned. It is the responsibility of the designer to pay for postage.

Many companies/magazines will confirm that they have received your submission and will tell you approximately when they will get back to you, or they may return your idea immediately because it does not fit their needs. Generally, you can expect the submission review process to take between 2 to 8 weeks.

Why does it take so long? Manufacturers or editors might be preparing for trade shows or rushing to meet a magazine deadline. **REFRAIN FROM CONTINUALLY CALLING ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION.**

If your design idea is accepted, generally a design fee will be discussed in advance and a contract issued. At this point, we strongly urge that you read the information contained at this web site regarding Designer Pitfalls and the dos and don'ts of project submissions.

Good Luck!

## DESIGNER PIT FALLS!

Here's a list of the most common designers' mistakes. It's helpful to review it before you are thinking of proposing a project idea, when you are working on the project, and before you submit the final project.

Refer to [YarnStandards.com](http://YarnStandards.com)

1. *Number one problem:*  
Designers do not follow company's guidelines.
2. *Submissions*
  - Do not submit your ideas or proposal to more than one manufacturer/editor at the same time.
  - When submitting yarn swatch(s) with your idea or proposal to a yarn manufacturer, always use that company's yarn(s).
3. *Sizing Issues*
  - Designer fails to provide body measurements or they are poorly calculated, especially when sizing up and especially for men's and children's garments. Sizing charts from the Industry Standards & Guidelines web site ([www.YarnStandards.com](http://www.YarnStandards.com)) are not followed, which frequently results in the problem of "gorilla" arms.
  - Instructions are provided for only one size.

- Gauge swatch is not made in the pattern stitches, nor using the hook or needle size most used. Most importantly, the gauge swatch does not match the project submitted.

### 3. *Materials*

- Yarn colors and precise amounts are frequently missing. For example, a designer may use terms such as "a small amount of yarn."
- Designer used discontinued yarn colors.
- Accessories are not indicated in the Materials Supply List. Quantities of button and button sizes, specific lengths of ribbon when required, or purse handle size are missing.

### 4. *Pattern Itself*

- Designer submits "general instructions," leaving the pattern writing and sizing to tech editors.
- There are no written instructions, just a sketch with measurements.
- Project math is incorrect—numbers don't add up.
- Stitch counts—especially at end of increase/decrease rows—were not included in the instructions.
- Standard punctuation and pattern language were not used.

- Designer does not explain nonstandard abbreviations.
- Pattern stitch (with multiples) was not listed before the actual garment instructions.
- Pattern repeats are not indicated; rows and stitches are not indicated.
- There was not general description of item included in the instructions.
- Right side/wrong side or left side/right side are not indicated on the pattern.
- Designer does not take notes while they are creating garment and they could not remember what they did.
- Designer fails to keep a record of her work so when tech editor calls she cannot answer intelligently.
- Designer sends in the garment to make a deadline before writing the pattern, and then writes the pattern relying on notes.

### 5. *Graphics*

- Designer fails to provide detailed schematics. Schematic should include length from shoulder to bottom, width at armholes, depth of armholes, length from cast on/foundation row to armholes, sleeve length and for hats circumference at widest point.

- Designer fails to provide stitch pattern charts and/or color charts(Intarsia).
- Designer does not prepare schematics based on measurements of the finished pieces BEFORE they are assembled.
- Designer provides photos for a technique because she cannot put it into words, expecting the tech editor to do it.
- Schematic is not drawn to scale.

#### 6. Designer Don'ts

- Do not size by changing hook or needle size.
- Do not block acrylic yarn with heat.
- Do not knit or crochet while you smoke, eat or are near animals.
- Do not make changes in the contracted project without prior permission.
- Do not submit project without instructions, schematics or charts.
- Do not make the project in any other size than what the contract states.
- **DO NOT BE LATE WITH YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

## INDUSTRY STANDARDS & GUIDELINES for DESIGNERS

Congratulations! You've received the "go ahead" from a company or publication to prepare a sample or project. Before you begin the project and before you are ready to send in the completed item, there are specific guidelines you must follow in order for your project to be accepted. Here is a helpful checklist.

NOTE: In addition to the following guidelines, you must also comply with the specific instructions from the company/publication to which you are submitting a design.

### Before you begin the project

- Reconfirm yarn and color selection with your editor or design director AND check all ball bands to be sure they are all the same dye lot number.
- Reconfirm with the yarn manufacturer that the yarn you have chosen will be available for at least the next year. Most magazines and book publishers work six months in advance.
- Reconfirm the size of the sample garment required to fit the photography model. DO NOT create the project to fit YOU, unless it is the same size

requested by the manufacturer or magazine.

- Keep notes as you work on your project so that you can refer to them when an editor has questions. **DO NOT RELY ON YOUR MEMORY TO WRITE THE PATTERN.**
- **SIZING**—Check the Standards & Guidelines measurements chart and size your project accordingly ([www.yarnstandards.com/sizing.html](http://www.yarnstandards.com/sizing.html)).
- Designers are urged to read Designer Pit Falls before you begin your project.

NOTE: As you are working on your project submission, if you feel there is a problem with the yarn or yarn color, contact the manufacturer or editor and discuss your concern. If you have an alternative, suggest it.

### WHAT TO SUBMIT...

#### 1. ACTUAL PROJECT

- **LABEL** – Affix a label or hang tag to the inside back of your project with your name and contact information, including your address, phone number and area code, e-mail address, and project number (if assigned).
- **CLEAN** – Projects must be clean, free of cat/dog hair, perfume or other scents and cigarette smoke.
- **FINISH & BLOCK** – Proper finishing is critical. Weave in all yarn ends and pay attention to blocking. Remember, acrylic

yarns should not be blocked with heat because it flattens the fibers. If you have questions about blocking a specific yarn, contact the company/publication.

- **SKEIN BAND/YARN LABEL** – Submit ALL skein bands/yarn labels from the various yarns you used to complete the project.

#### 2. GAUGE SWATCH

- **Swatch** – Submit a gauge swatch in the project pattern stitch. It must be a minimum of 4" square or larger if the pattern requires it. Both a stitch and row count should be included. The exception to this rule is when there are crochet motifs. Usually with motifs, rounds are listed. For example, a motif that requires 9 rounds would be stated as: Rounds 1–9 = 5"

- Gauge swatch must match project gauge. Companies will reject your submission if your gauge swatch does not match the gauge in the project.

#### 3. PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

- **Electronic Format** – Project instructions must be submitted in an electronic file. Generally, a Microsoft Word file is acceptable, but always check with your editor. Remember to write your name and contact information, plus project number (if assigned) on the first page of the instructions. Also, include a printout of the instructions with your project submission to which you have

stapled all of the ball bands or skein bands.

NOTE: To speed up the technical editing process, some companies may ask you to e-mail your instructions before you send in your project/garment.

• **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**—All companies require the following information in the pattern instructions you submit:

- a. Indicate the type yarn used, put up (skein/ball yardage and weight), fiber content, the number of skeins/balls required for each project size, AND record all yarn amounts.
- b. Indicate Yarn Weight symbols using the Yarn Standards & Guidelines.
- c. Note all needle or hook sizes in millimeter and U.S. sizes.
- d. List all materials required to complete the project, including necessary additional supplies and accessories such as buttons and beads with specific sizes and quantities noted, snaps, purse handles, etc., and source information if possible, i.e., where a consumer most likely will find these items.
- e. Note any unusual abbreviations or terms not found in the Standards & Guidelines Knitting and Crocheting Abbreviations Master List. (See web site: [www.yarnstandards.com/](http://www.yarnstandards.com/)

[crochet.html](http://crochet.html) or [www.yarnstandards.com/knit.html](http://www.yarnstandards.com/knit.html) for a complete list.)

- f. List all measurements including finished chest, back and armhole measurements for each size submitted in the case of garments AND indicate which size was made. For accessories, list the finished dimensions of the project.

- **PATTERN SIZING** – It is the designer's job to write multiple sizes for a pattern, taking into account shaping and pattern repeats.
- **SKILL LEVEL** – Using the Standards & Guidelines Skill Level chart, indicate what skill level you think the project requires and insert the appropriate symbol at the beginning of the pattern. You can download these symbols from the CYCA Standards Web site: [www.yarnstandards.com/skill.html](http://www.yarnstandards.com/skill.html)).
- **INSTRUCTIONS** – Here is important information to include in your project instructions:
  - a. Indicate right side/wrong side, right side/left side.
  - b. Always mention the total number of stitches in a row/round after an increase or decrease.
  - c. If a project, such as a cardigan, has sides that are mirror images of one another,

write out complete shaping directions for both sides.

- d. Be sure to mention finishing details such as bind off or fasten off; sew up the side seams, or set in or sew sleeves in place.
- e. **ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK YOUR MATH!**
- f. Project schematic, including each piece of the project/garment, must be submitted with your submission (see below).
- g. Using recommended Industry Symbols, project charts for stitch or color (intarsia) patterns also must be submitted.

#### 4. PROJECT SCHEMATIC

- **GRID PAPER** – Generally, a project schematic is drawn on 8-squares-to-the-inch grid paper. Include measurements for all sizes, taking into account shaping and maintaining pattern stitches. (Grid paper can be downloaded from several sites on the Internet, or you can create a grid with most basic software programs.) A scan of the grid paper is usually acceptable provided the grid is clearly legible.
- Schematic must be drawn to scale. Schematic should show actual knitted/crocheted measurements of the pieces, not finished measurements.

NOTE: Grid size may vary from publishers to publisher. Size of grid paper is not as important as **ACCURACY**.

In addition, schematic should show the direction of working. For example, if a sleeve or the entire garment is worked from the top down, the piece should be shown oriented that way. If worked side-to-side, then that should be shown on the schematic as well. If different parts are worked in different direction, arrows showing the direction of work are very helpful.

#### 5. INVOICE

- An invoice should be submitted along with your completed project. (Fees are generally negotiated when your design concept is first accepted by a manufacturer/magazine.) On the invoice include an invoice number, your name, current address, phone number, e-mail address, social security number or tax ID, name and number of design if you have one, and brief description of the project. Generally, companies require that a signed Design Agreement/Contract must be included with the invoice.

#### 6. RETURN SHIPPING

Return shipping is the expense of the designer. Return all unused and used yarn.

**Complete your project on time!**